

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the following paragraph and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- For many older people and semi-invalids it is generally difficult to move unassisted from a recumbent position in bed to a sitting position. The help of another person, for instance a ~~earer~~ caregiver, or use of an aid is usually required here to be able to achieve the desired movement. The international patent application WO 97/10792 describes an apparatus for supporting persons when getting in and out of bed, using which (semi-invalid) persons can however get in or out of bed autonomously. The known apparatus comprises an arm which can be swivelled swiveled on a vertical axis and which is displaceable by means of driving by an electric motor between a first position, in which the arm is positioned above a person located in the bed, and a second position in which the arm is positioned along a person located (partly) beside the bed. The two positions enclose a substantially perpendicular angle to each other. Using the known apparatus a user, such as for instance a semi-invalid, can be transported from a dorsal recumbent position to a sitting position on an edge of the bed. The known apparatus has a number of drawbacks however. A significant drawback of the known apparatus is that a user must grip onto the arm over a relatively long distance, wherein considerable tensile strains are generally exerted on the user, particularly on the shoulders, the neck and the back of the user.—

Please delete the following paragraph and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In a further particular preferred embodiment, the force-transmitting means are provided with at least a second handgrip for exerting a manual force on the apparatus by a second person to bring about rotation of the engaging means. By applying muscular force to the second handgrip, the second person, generally a ~~earer~~ caregiver, can cause the engaging means to rotate about the substantially horizontal axis via the force-transmitting means, whereby the user will undergo the rotation about the substantially sagittal axis. The second handgrip can optionally be formed by an operating handle of an electric motor connected to the force-transmitting means. The substantially horizontal axis is preferably located between the engaging means and at least a second handgrip. By positioning the pivot point between

the two physically loaded elements, i.e. the engaging means on one side and the second handgrip on the other, a lever effect can be achieved during displacement of the user from a lateral recumbent position to a sitting position and vice versa. The user can hereby be displaced in relatively simple, easy and efficient manner between a sitting position and a lateral recumbent position. It is however also possible to position the at least one second handgrip adjacently of the engaging means. The second handgrip can thus (also) be arranged on for instance the head support. It will be apparent that it is also possible to envisage applying a plurality of second handgrips in the same apparatus according to the invention, in order to further facilitate displacement of the engaging means. --

Please delete the following paragraph and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of an apparatus 5 according to the invention. The (mobile) apparatus 5 comprises a bracket-like arm 6, which arm 6 is provided on one side with a head support 7 for supporting a user (not shown), and which arm 6 is provided on an opposite side with a handgrip 8 for a ~~earer~~ caregiver (not shown). Handgrip 8 is arranged to facilitate displacement of the user between a lateral recumbent position and a sitting position. Head support 7 is connected on a side remote from arm 6 to an additional handgrip 9 for the ~~earer~~ caregiver, in order to further facilitate displacement of the user. Arm 6 is in fact constructed from an upper arm part 10 located toward head support 7, and a lower arm part 11 located toward handgrip 8. Both arm parts 10, 11 are mutually connected at the position of a curve in both arm parts 10, 11. The curve is here adapted to support, in particular roll along, on a surface supporting the user. The length of upper arm part 10 substantially corresponds to the distance between the neck or the head of the user on the one hand and the (lower part of the) trunk or seat of the user on the other. The effective length of upper arm part 10 is adjustable by sliding head support 7 along upper arm part 10. When the correct arm length is obtained, the relative orientation between head support 7 and arm 6 can be fixed by means of a locking element 12. The length of lower arm part 11 is particularly relevant for optimizing the lever action for the ~~earer~~ caregiver during rotation--by rolling along on the support surface--of apparatus 5, in particular head support 7. Arm 6 is preferably manufactured from a substantially rigid material, such as for instance ~~aluminium~~ aluminum or any other metal. Conversely, head support 7 is preferably

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manufactured from a (slightly) elastic material, such as for instance foam rubber, so as to make supporting on head support 7 more pleasant for the user. In addition to a relatively flexible applicability of the mobile apparatus 5, apparatus 5 has the advantage of being structurally relatively simple. The further operation of the shown apparatus 5 is shown in FIGS. 3a, 3b and 3c.--

Please delete the following paragraph and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

--FIG. 3a shows a schematic view of apparatus 5 of FIG. 2 and a person 13 in a lateral recumbent position. The head 14 of person 13 supports on head support 7. Arm 6 is positioned along person 13 on a dorsal side of person 13, wherein lower arm part 11 of arm 6 protrudes relative to a lateral side of person 13. Arm 6 herein supports on a support surface (not shown) of person 13. Another person, for instance a ~~earer~~ caregiver, can displace handgrip 8 in the direction of the support surface, wherein head support 7 will be displaced in a direction away from the support surface, as shown in FIGS. 3b and 3c. During the displacement of head support 7 in said direction, person 13 will undergo a rotation on his/her own sagittal axis 15 at the position of the lower trunk, this sagittal axis 15 being indicated here.--

Please delete the following paragraph and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 3b shows a schematic view of apparatus 5 of FIG. 2 and person 13 in a transition position. Since only a rotation on the sagittal axis 15 of person 13 takes place, wherein person 13 is supported at a distance from sagittal axis 15 by head support 7, a user-friendly and controlled rotation of person 13 can take place, wherein the loads exerted on person 13 are minimized. If handgrip 8 is displaced further in the direction of the support surface by the other person, in particular the ~~earer~~ caregiver, further rotation of person 13 about the sagittal axis 15 can take place. A position which can then be reached is the sitting position of person 13 as shown in FIG. 3c.--

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-- FIG. 5 is a side view of a bed 26 provided with yet another apparatus 27 according to the invention. Apparatus 27 greatly resembles the apparatus 18 shown in FIG. 4. Apparatus 27, which is positioned for the greater part under bed 26, comprises a rotatable toothed wheel 28 driven by an electric motor (not shown). Toothed wheel 28 is adapted for co-action with a toothed surface 29 of a non-linear arm 30. A side of arm 30 remote from the toothed surface 29 is supported in a guiding manner by a support wheel 31. A part of arm 30 protruding above bed 26 is adapted as handgrip 32 for a user 33 situated on bed 26. When toothed wheel 28 is rotated, arm 30 will begin to displace, wherein handgrip 32 will begin to rotate on an imaginary axis such that the user 33 holding onto handgrip 32 will be rotated about the substantially sagittal axis 34 of user 33 to a sitting position (arrow C). The lower trunk rotation or whole body rotation of user 33 on the sagittal axis minimizes the load on the body of user 33, and is therefore generally very suitable for semi-invalid users 33. The shown apparatus 27 can be used wholly autonomously by user 33, wherein assistance from a ~~earer~~ caregiver or other person is not essential.--